# 1Rhodora

### JOURNAL OF

# THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Vol. 17.

August, 1915.

No. 200.

# PLANTS AND PLANT SOCIETIES AT ROQUE BLUFFS, MAINE.

CLARENCE H. KNOWLTON.

About 40 miles east of Mt. Desert, and the same distance southwest of Eastport lies the town of Roque Bluffs, Washington county, Maine. Machias Bay lies just east, and Cutler, across the bay, is sixteen miles to the eastward. The body of water just south is called Englishman's Bay, and receives the waters of Englishman's River, a tidal estuary with tributary brooks, named for the first settler. The waters offshore are very cold, from the Greenland current, and fogs are frequent and dense in summer. This gives the coast a boreal climate, although it lies just south of North Latitude 45°.

The underlying rock is a silicious slate, cut by numerous dikes of diabase, many of which have been eroded by the sea, making deep sea-caves among the cliffs. West of the slate there is a large area of a fine-grained reddish granite, which forms the "red rocks" as the cliffs are locally called. This mass, too, has numerous diabase dikes. Except for these dikes, the rock is silicious and there is little lime to affect the soil and flora. Over the bedrock lies a thick layer of till containing many boulders, mostly of granite, coarse and fine. Over this in many level places lie beds of marine clay.

Between two of the rocky points the waves and the 16-foot tide have thrown up a half-mile of barrier beach, so wide that the inner half of it is under cultivation, and the pond behind it is of water entirely fresh. Besides the Englishman's River there is a smaller unnamed estuary, and the salt marshes border these. The rest of the shore is rocky and in many places precipitous.

For several years I have spent a week or more of my summer vacation in this interesting place. To insure a complete survey of the flora there should be, of course, spring and fall visits as well, but the season there is so short that the plants often overlap. Thus I have seen *Ledum* in bloom on July 4, wild roses on Sept. 3, and *Cornus canadensis* in flower and in fruit in the last week of July. The following lists are therefore reasonably complete.

For convenience in presentation, and to show the natural plant societies of the region, I have selected the eight natural habitats—sea beach, salt-marsh, rocky headlands, peat-bogs, barrier beach pond, swamps, Canadian forest and cleared upland. The swamps and cleared upland are less primitive than the other six groups, and new plants seem to be working into these areas from the warmer region

back of the coast.

For completeness the fields should be added, but their flora is largely of outside origin. Four introduced weeds, however, deserve special mention. Matricaria suaveolens is the commonest of dooryard and roadside weeds, completely covering the ground in places, and giving forth its pineapple-like odor when crushed. Rumex Patientia is the early broad-leaved dock and abounds in many parts of the county. The prevailing Leontodon is a large plant 4–5 dm. in height and full of good-sized heads all through July. This plant is pubescent and the involucres are densely covered with hairs. This is quite different from the smooth slender plant which is in bud at the same time, which is the type, while this larger plant is L. autumnalis, var. pratensis. Another unusual plant, Arrhenatherum elatius, has been introduced in grass seed in one place only, but has flourished there for several years.

# SEA BEACH, SAND OR GRAVEL.

Agropyron repens
Ammophila arundinacea
Elymus arenarius
Hierochloe odorata
Spartina Michauxiana
Polygonum aviculare, var. vegetum
Rumex pallidus
Atriplex patula, var. hastata
Suaeda maritima

Arenaria peploides L.
var. robusta Fernald
Cakile edentula
Rosa virginiana
Lathyrus maritimus
Oenothera muricata
Coelopleurum actaeifolium
Convolvulus sepium, var. pubescens
Mertensia maritima

Galium Aparine

Of the above plants it is interesting to note the comparative abundance of Elymus arenarius on gravelly beaches. This circumboreal plant is now known along the coast to Casco Bay, the Isles of Shoals and Provincetown. Rosa virginiana deserves mention from its great abundance, its variability and the remarkable size and beauty of its flowers and glossy green leaves. Oenothera muricata is a very handsome species here. The buds are massed at the top of the stem, appearing cymose, and often ten or a dozen will open at once, forming a ring of flowers. Mertensia maritima is a peculiar prostrate plant, with glaucous blue-green leaves, red buds, and blue flowers. It is occasional, but never abundant, on gravelly beaches. Galium Aparine occurs in only two places, in loose shingle above high tide, and it has evidently been brought in ballast from further south.

## SALT MARSH.

Zostera marina Triglochin maritima Agropyron repens

Agropyron caninum (L.) Beauv.,

var. tenerum (Vasey) Pease & Moore Salicornia europaea

Agrostis alba
Festuca rubra
Hierochloe odorata
Hordeum jubatum
Puccinellia angustata

Spartina glabra, var. alterniflora

" patens
Carex maritima
Scirpus americanus
Juncus balticus, var. littoralis

" bufonius

Juncus bufonius, var. halophilus

Gerardi

Atriplex patula, var. hastata

Suaeda maritima Salicornia europaea Polygonum Fowleri Stellaria humifusa Spergularia canadensis Ranunculus Cymbalaria

Potentilla pacifica

Limonium carolinianum

Glaux maritima, var. obtusifolia

Plantago decipiens

Aster novi-belgii, var. litoreus

Solidago sempervirens

In the salt-marshes Carex maritima covers large areas so densely that other species are few. The past season, however, after diligent search I found good specimens of the northern Stellaria humifusa, prostrate in the tidal mud between the stalks of the Carex in one of these areas. Juncus balticus, var. littoralis is the only salt-marsh species which seems able to compete successfully with other species in other habitats. It is frequent in swampy places some distance from the sea, and at one place I have found it in the shade of spruce trees at the edge of a peat-bog.

# ROCKY HEADLANDS.

Juniperus horizontalis
Alnus mollis
Deschampsia flexuosa
Festuca rubra
Iris setosa, var. canadensis
Arenaria lateriflora
Sagina procumbens
Potentilla tridentata
Rosa virginiana
Vicia angustifolia, var. segetalis
Empetrum nigrum

Ligusticum scothicum
Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea, var. minus
Convolvulus sepium,
var. pubescens
Euphrasia americana
"Randii
Rhinanthus Crista-galli L.,
var. fallax
Plantago decipiens
Campanula rotundifolia
Senecio sylvaticus
Solidago Randii

Roque Bluffs is near the southern limit of Iris setosa, var. canadensis at Little Duck Island. This is frequent on the headlands within reach of the sea-spray, but it does not grow in the salt-marshes. Empetrum nigrum is a sprawling undershrub on many of the sea-cliffs, and is different in habit and size from the same plant growing in the sphagnum of peat-bogs. Euphrasia Randii I have found in only one place, close to a large diabase dike, but at Machiasport it grows over quart-zite, so there is apparently no lithological reason for its scarcity. Senecio sylvaticus is a slender annual, occasional in crevices, but never abundant.

### PEAT-BOGS.1

Larix laricina
Picea mariana
Betula alba, var. cordifolia
Nemopanthus mucronata
Chamaedaphne calyculata
Andromeda glaucophylla
Gaylussacia baccata
"dumosa (Andr.) T. & G.
var. Bigeloviana Fernald
Kalmia angustifolia
"polifolia

Ledum groenlandicum

Rhododendron canadense

Scheuchzeria palustris
Carex canescens, var. disjuncta
"leptalea
"limosa
"oligosperma
"pauciflora
"namercula var irrigua

Vaccinium macrocarpon

" paupercula, var. irrigua

" sterilis " trisperma

" trisperma, var. Billingsii

Rynchospora alba

<sup>1</sup> In this and the following plant societies I have placed trees and shrubs before the herbaceous plants, as a slight aid to visualizing the groups.

Eriophorum callitrix

" tenellum

" angustifolium

" virginicum

Smilacina trifolia
Arethusa bulbosa
Calopogon pulchellus
Pogonia ophioglossoides
Microstylis unifolia

Comandra livida
Drosera longifolia
"rotundifolia
Rubus Chamaemorus
Empetrum nigrum
Menyanthes trifoliata
Melampyrum lineare

Aster nemoralis, var. Blakei

Solidago uniligulata

The peat-bogs are one of the most striking features of the landscape. They are level, or a bit higher in the middle, with stunted trees of *Picea mariana* to add dreariness to the view. Around the edges they are very wet, and some of the bogs quake as you walk in the wet sphagnum. In others the central part is firm and even dry.

The Labrador tea, Ledum groenlandicum, is abundant, and has beautiful white flowers in June. One bog is full of staminate Rubus Chamaemorus, another has both staminate and pistillate plants, mostly the latter. It is a curious sight to see this plant well fruited, for the berries are a very rich golden yellow, and lie on the beds of sphagnum like so many gold coins. Gaylussacia dumosa, var. Bigeloviana I have found in only one bog so far, with the moss up nearly to the tuft of leaves at the tip. It is in full bloom in late July, a most attractive cream-white bell-flower. Scheuchzeria grows in the peat-bog by the barrier-beach pond, as the other bogs do not seem wet enough for it. Carex limosa grows with it, and also flourishes under swamp conditions across the pond. Carex trisperma, var. Billingsii flourishes in the same place, while the other sedges listed are of more general distribution. Comandra livida grows in only one bog, and does not flower or fruit. An examination of several extensive root-systems indicates that this species is not parasitic here. It was new to eastern Maine when I found it in 1907, but it has since been found by Prof. M. L. Fernald at West Quoddy Head. Another tenuous little bog plant is Melampyrum lineare, which has linear leaves and is much more delicate than the woodland form of the same species.

The peat-bog flora contains a large number of boreal plants, because these cold wet masses of sphagnum are so much like the bogs northward under the Arctic Circle. Among these boreal plants are Scheuchzeria, Carex limosa, C. pauciflora, Eriophorum angustifolium, Comandra livida and Rubus Chamaemorus. Along with them are many other bog plants whose range is from Newfoundland to Georgia or Florida.

Such are Carex sterilis, Arethusa, Pogonia and Drosera longifolia. On the whole, however, the peat-bogs are much more distinctly boreal in character than any of the other plant societies at this place. Many of the species also flourish on the granitic mountain-tops of northern New England.

## BARRIER-BEACH POND.

Typha latifolia
Sparganium fluctuans
Potamogeton alpinus
epihydrus

natans

Carex filiformis

" rostrata, var. utriculata
Dulichium arundinaceum

Eleocharis palustris

"palustris, var. vigens
Scirpus validus
Nymphaea advena, var. variegata
Potentilla palustris (L.) Scop.,
var. villosa (Pers.) Lehm.
Sium cicutaefolium
Menyanthes trifoliata

The most vigorous of these fresh-water plants is *Menyanthes*, which occupies large areas of the shallow water, and works inland to some extent in peat-bog and swamp. The *Potentilla* is large and handsome, with big stalks, and long root-stocks.

## SWAMPS AND WET FIELDS.

66

Salix lucida Myrica Gale Alnus incana Pyrus melanocarpa Rosa virginiana nitida Rubus hispidus Spiraea latifolia Ilex verticillata Lonicera caerulea, var. villosa Aspidium cristatum Thelypteris Asplenium Filix-femina Osmunda cinnamomea Claytoniana Equisetum arvense Agrostis alba Bromus ciliatus Calamagrostis canadensis

Glyceria borealis

Glyceria canadensis grandis laxa nervatapallida Torreyana Carex conoidea CrawfordiiCrawfordii, var. vigens crinita, var. gynandra debilis, var. Rudgei filiformis 66 hormathodes66 limosaOederi, var. pumila 66 pallescens 66 rostrata, var. utriculata " stellulata 66 stellulata, var. angustata

stellulata, var. cephalantha

Carex scoparia

" scoparia, var. condensa

" scoparia, var. moniliformis

Cladium mariscoides

Dulichium arundinaceum

Eleocharis acicularis

" palustris

" tenuis

Eriophorum angustifolium

Rynchospora alba

Scirpus atrocinctus

" georgianus

" rubrotinctus

" rubrotinctus, var. confertus

Juncus balticus, var. littoralis

" brevicaudatus

" bufonius

" effusus, var. Pylaei

" filiformis

" tenuis

Iris versicolor

Habenaria clavellata

Polygonum sagittatum

Rumex Brittanica

" Patientia

Arenaria lateriflora

Stellaria borealis

graminea

Ranunculus pennsylvanicus

Thalictrum polygamum

Thalictrum polygamum

var. hebecarpum

Impatiens biflora

Hypericum canadense

" ellipticum

virginicum

Viola cucullata

" incognita

" lanceolata

" pallens

" primulifolia

Epilobium adenocaulon

densum

Conioselinum chinense

Heracleum lanatum

Hydrocotyle americana

Lysimachia terrestris

Convolvulus sepium

Cuscuta Gronovii

Lycopus uniflorus

Scutellaria galericulata

Chelone glabra

Galium Claytoni

trifidum

Aster Radula

Eupatorium perfoliatum

purpureum,

var. maculatum

Solidago graminifolia

Most of these plants are not uncommon in our range, and this habitat is less boreal than several of the others. There are probably other plants in this group which further search would reveal. Of the sedges Carex Oederi, var. pumila is very common in wet pastures and by roadsides, both in clay and muck. Viola incognita is the common white violet of swamps and woods. Conioselinum is rare enough to please the botanist decidedly, when he discovers its bright green dissected leaves and white umbels of flowers. Heracleum is at only one station near the coast, but flourishes inland.

## CANADIAN FOREST.

Abies balsamea

Larix laricina

Picea canadensis

" rubra

Thuya occidentalis

Populus tremuloides

Betula alba, var. cordifolia

" var. papyrifera

Taxus canadensis

Salix balsamifera

" discolor

" discolor, var. eriocephala

" humilis

" rostrata

Alnus incana

" mollis

Ribes oxyacanthoides

" prostratum

Amelanchier laevis Wiegand

Prunus pennsylvanica

Pyrus americana

" arbutifolia, var. atropurpurea

" sitchensis

Rubus nigricans

" tardatus

Ilex verticillata

Nemopanthus mucronata

Diervilla Lonicera

Lonicera canadensis

Sambucus racemosa

Viburnum cassinoides

Lentago

Aspidium noveboracense

" spinulosum,

var. dilatatum

var. intermedium

Asplenium Filix-foemina

Phegopteris polypodioides

Polypodium vulgare

Equisetum sylvaticum

Lycopodium annotinum

clavatum

lucidulum

Lycopodium obscurum,

var. dendroideum

Carex brunnescens

" communis

" crinita

" crinita, var. gynandra

" novae-angliae

" trisperma

Luzula saltuensis

Maianthemum canadense

Streptopus roseus

Trillium undulatum

Cypripedium acaule

Habenaria obtusata

Polygonum cilinode

Coptis trifolia

Dalibarda repens

Rubus triflorus

Oxalis Acetosella

Circaea alpina

Viola incognita

" pallens

Aralia hispida

' nudicaulis

Cornus canadensis

Chiogenes serpyllifolia

Gaultheria procumbens

Moneses uniflora

Monotropa uniflora

Pyrola americana

(( -11:-1:--

" elliptica

Trientalis americana

Melampyrum lineare

Veronica officinalis

Mitchella repens

Linnaea borealis, var. americana

Aster acuminatus

" lateriflorus, var. hirsuticaulis

" puniceus

" radula

Solidago macrophylla

" rugosa

Prenanthes trifoliolata

These woods are dark and mossy with frequent glades. The evergreens predominate, for the poplars are only casual. As for the birches, instead of having the dazzling white bark which often characterizes the paper birches, these trees have a dull reddish bark, and are not conspicuous in the forest. Such rich woods trees as the maples and yellow birch are rare near the shore, even in the undergrowth.

Salix balsamifera is an occasional shrub, with bright red young leaves at the tips of the branches. It does not give out its resinous perfume until it has wilted. Amelanchier laevis is the only species of the genus which I have so far been able to find. It is abundant and fruits heavily. Pyrus sitchensis is occasional close to the sea, but seems to be much less frequent than P. americana. In Rubus there is a good deal of a trailing species which seems to be R. nigricans, while there is another more erect species which always comes out R. tardatus, by the key in the seventh edition of Gray's Manual.

The most conspicuous fern is Aspidium spinulosum, var. dilatatum. It fills moist glades in the woods with great masses of delicate fronds four or five feet long, and often over a foot in width. Solidago macrophylla, so frequent in mountain woods inland, here flourishes near sea-level.

In general the flora of these Canadian woods is full and typical, except that the calciphiles are lacking.

# CLEARED UPLAND (PASTURES, OLD FIELDS AND ROADSIDES).

Juniperus communis, var. depressa Myrica asplenifolia Alnus incana Betula populifolia Crataegus sp. Rosa virginiana Rubus canadensis

" idaeus, var. aculeatissimus

Spiraea latifolia
"tomentosa
Vaccinium canadense

" pennsylvanicum

pennsylvanicum, var.

nigrum

Diervilla Lonicera Aspidium spinulosum Dicksonia punctilobula
Pteris aquilina
Lycopodium clavatum
Agrostis alba, var. vulgaris

"hyemalis
Danthonia spicata
Panicum boreale

implicatum in material

Poa pratensis
"triflora
Carex adusta
"pallescens
Juncus Greenei
Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Spiranthes Romanzoffiana

Polygonum cilinode

Corydalis sempervirens

Potentilla canadensis, var. simplex

" monspeliensis

" tridentata

Lechea intermedia

Oxalis corniculata

Viola incognita

" labradorica

" primulifolia

" septentrionalis

Epilobium angustifolium

Oenothera pumila

Aralia hispida

Cornus canadensis

Prunella vulgaris L.,

var. lanceolata (Barton) Fernald

Euphrasia americana

Houstonia caerulea

Achillaea Millefolium

Anaphalis margaritacea

Antennaria canadensis

Aster lateriflorus, var. hirsuticaulis

" paniculatus

Hieracium floribundum

" aurantiacum

Solidago rugosa

Several of these plants seem to be introductions from outside. Such are Juniperus communis, var. depressa, Myrica asplenifolia, Betula populifolia and perhaps the lone Crataegus tree.

Last summer I was much pleased to find in dry soil where brush had been burned, a very vigorous sedge which I soon found to be Carex adusta, a well-named species. This has been known in New England only from Mt. Desert, and is a northern plant, so it is interesting to secure this Washington County station for it. Juncus Greenei is here at its northeastern limit so far as known, its previous limit being Mt. Desert. Lechea intermedia is another dry land plant which is rather frequent. Spiranthes Romanzoffiana is an early bloomer, as I have found it in late July. Viola labradorica seems to be the least of all the violets. The plants are tiny, the leaves small, and the branches very slender, though short. I have found it in only one place.

There are several other very interesting plants which I have found in adjoining towns, and may at some time discover at Roque Bluffs. Thus at Libby Island, Machiasport, I have found Sagina nodosa, var. glandulosa, Sedum roseum, Lathyrus palustris, var. pilosus, Epilobium adenocaulon, var. perplexans, Primula farinosa, var. macropoda, and Prenanthes nana. At Point of Maine, Machiasport, are Sedum roseum and Lathyrus palustris, var. pilosus. At Roque Island, which lies a mile off shore in Englishman's Bay, but is a part of Jonesport, I have found Sparganium angustifolium and Montia lamprosperma, also a hardwood forest of beeches, ash, and hornbeam. At Machias, the next town inland, I have found Scirpus pedicellatus, Streptopus amplexifolius, Listera cordata and Senecio Robbinsii, all of which are to be expected in Roque Bluffs.

In addition to Rand and Redfield's excellent Flora of Mt. Desert there have been many Rhodora articles in regard to the flora of the Maine coast. The following list of these articles may be useful for reference.

Chamberlain, E. B. Meeting of the Josselyn Botanical Society, X. 172.

Collins, F. S. An Algologist's Vacation in Eastern Maine, IV. 174; The Marine Flora of Great Duck Island, II. 209.

Соок, М. Р. Plants of the Island of Monhegan, III. 187.

Cushman, J. A. Primula farinosa, var. macropoda on the Maine Coast, IX. 217; Some Interesting Maine Plants, XI. 12.

Fernald, M. L. Notes from the Phaenogamic Herbarium of the N. E. Botanical Club,—II, XIII. 177.

Fernald M. L., and Wiegand, K. M. Botanizing in Eastern Maine, XII. 101, 133.

Graves, A. H. Woody Plants of Brooklin, Maine, XII. 173.

Hill, A. F. Notes on the Flora of the Penobscot Bay Region, Maine, XVI. 189.

Kennedy, G. G. The Maine Coast at Cutler, IV. 23.

Knowlton, C. H. Plants collected at Roque Bluffs, Maine, in 1907, IX. 218.

MOULTON, D. H. Annual Meeting of the Josselyn Society, IV. 188.
NORTON, A. H. Plants from the Islands and Coast of Maine, XV.
137.

Rand, E. L. *Pinus Banksiana* on Mt. Desert Island, I. 135; *Subularia* on Mt. Desert, Island I. 155; Plants from the Duck Islands, II. 207; Additions to the Plants of Mt. Desert Island, X. 145.

Shaw, E. L. A New Station for Iris Hookeri in Maine, X. 145.

HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.